

**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment**

Operator: Porker Oil Company
Well Name/Number: Rice Stannard State No. 10X
Location: SE SW Section 30 T35N R1W
County: Toole MT; Field (or Wildcat) Kevin Sunburst

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 3 to 4 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, small single derrick rig to drill 1500' TD, Madison Formation development well.

Possible H₂S gas production: Yes, slight.

In/near Class I air quality area: Not in a Class I air quality area.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under rule 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

☒ Air quality permit (AQB review)

☐ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: _____

Comments: No special concerns – using small rig to drill to 1500' TD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater, freshwater mud system, air, air mist.

High water table: No high water table anticipated at this wellsite.

Surface drainage leads to live water: None nearby is an intermittent pond or pothole pond, about 1/4 of a mile to the west northwest from this location.

Water well contamination: No water wells within 1 mile from this location.

Porous/permeable soils: No, silty bentonitic soils.

Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainages in the area of review.

Mitigation:

☐ Lined reserve pit

☒ Adequate surface casing

☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

☐ Closed mud system

☐ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

☐ Other: _____

Comments: Surface casing will be set and cemented, 300'+ to surface is adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems or air to be used.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: None, no stream crossings.

High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 2.8' and small fill, up to 0.15', required.

Loss of soil productivity: No, location will be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, 150'X150' location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is grassland.

Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation

☐ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

☐ Exception location requested

☒ Stockpile topsoil

☐ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

☒ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

☐ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

☐ Other _____

Comments: Access will be over existing county roads, Ferdig Road and existing well trails. Cuttings will be buried in the unlined cuttings pit. Fluids will be allowed to dry in the pit and will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Nearest residence is about 1/2 mile to the west, about 5/8 of a mile to the northwest and 1/2 of a mile to the southeast of this location.

Possibility of H2S: Slight chance of H2S.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small drilling rig/short 3 to 4 days drilling time

Mitigation:

☒ Proper BOP equipment

☐ Topographic sound barriers

☐ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: _____

Comments: Distance to nearest residence adequate to minimize noise and health concerns.

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species: Species identified as threatened or endangered by the USFWS in Toole County, Montana is the Black-footed Ferret. Candidate species listed by USFWS in Toole County, Montana is the Sprague's Pipit. NH tracker website lists one (1) specie of concern, the Ferruginous Hawk.

Mitigation:

☐ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

☒ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

☐ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

☐ Other: _____

Comments: State of Montana, Trust Land surface and minerals. Trust Lands will do surface EA.

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites: None identified

Mitigation

☐ avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

☒ other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

☐ Other: _____

Comments: State of Montana, Trust Land surface and minerals. Trust Lands will do surface EA.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

☐ Substantial effect on tax base

☐ Create demand for new governmental services

☐ Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns. Development well in an existing oil field, Kevin Sunburst Oil and Gas field.

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 1500' Madison Formation test.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated in time.

I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): Steven Sasaki _____

(title:) Chief Field Inspector

Date: October 14, 2011

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Water wells in Toole County _____

(subject discussed)

October 14, 2011

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES

MONTANA COUNTIES, Toole County

(subject discussed)

October 14, 2011

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)

(Name and Agency)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T35N R1W

(subject discussed)

October 14, 2011

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____